

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : JEAN-PATRICK AZPITARTE Docket No.: 01-600
Serial No. : Examiner :
Filed : Art Unit :
For : SYSTEM FOR REMOTELY MANAGING
MAINTENANCE OF A SET OF FACILITIES

j1046 U.S. PTO
09/971946

10/04/01

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In compliance with Applicant's duty of disclosure, the following patent documents are brought to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 5,404,503 to
Hill et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,859,778 to
Kuroda et al.

European Patent No. 0822473
to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha

The aforementioned patent documents were cited in a Search Report issued in a corresponding French patent application. Copies of the aforementioned patent documents and a listing on Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

U.S. Patent No. 5,404,503 relates to a hierarchical distribution knowledge based system which functions in a

machine initiated maintenance environment to provide efficient and timely maintenance of customer equipment. The hierarchical, distributed knowledge based system provides the failure evaluation function through the use of an expert or knowledge based system that is installed in the customer equipment. The knowledge based system makes use of a set of rules and hypotheses to operate on data collection from various points within the customer equipment to monitor the operational integrity of the customer equipment. This knowledge based system identifies the occurrence of a failure within the customer equipment and functions using its rules, hypotheses and collected data to isolate the source of the error in the customer equipment and, whenever possible, "fence" or isolate the failed field replaceable unit that has caused the error. An additional attribute of this system is the provision of at least one more level of knowledge based system to provide a more global failure evaluation capability.

U.S. Patent No. 5,859,778 relates to a remote management system wherein a central control apparatus is connected with machines installed in a shop by communications means, so that set values of the operating conditions of each machine set in a microcomputer within the machine can be changed from the central control apparatus and, resetting the microcomputer and restarting of the machine can be directed from the central control apparatus, thereby eliminating the need for dispatching personnel to

the shop and reducing the management cost, while in case of a trouble in the machine, information indicating the occurrence of the trouble and information specifying the location of the trouble are transmitted to the central control apparatus thereby to shorten the time required for restarting the machine by the personnel and improve the management efficiency, and further featuring a controller which periodically collects information related to the operation of the machine from the microcomputer and stores the information in a memory thereof while erasing the collected data already stored in the memory of the microcomputer, thereby allowing a small memory capacity for the microcomputer and suppressing the machine cost.

European Patent No. 0822473 relates to factories which have host computers for monitoring industrial equipments. Each host computer is connected to a management host computer on a vendor side through the internet. The host computer on the factory side detects occurrence of a trouble of the industrial equipment and notifies the vendor side of status information representing a trouble state. In response to this, the host computer on the vendor side notifies the factory side of response information representing a countermeasure against the trouble state.

None of the aforementioned patents are believed to negate the patentability of the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

JEAN-PATRICK AZPITARTE

By


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Date: October 4, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Application Number | |
| | | | | Filing Date | 01/07/1996 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | AZPITARTE |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | 16 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | U.S. PTO |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 01-600 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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